

# COMMUNITY CARE LICENSING DIVISION



## UPDATE

July 2007

*To the Child Care Community*



It's summertime! We are in the fifteenth year of our efforts to keep the child care community informed about licensing programs and services. The Updates continue to be an important method for sharing information. We appreciate your support in sharing these Updates with those in your organization, and others interested in child care issues.

The Updates are available online and can be viewed or obtained at:

[http://www.cclid.ca.gov/CommunityC\\_1726.htm](http://www.cclid.ca.gov/CommunityC_1726.htm).

You can find the topic of your choice in each Update without having to scroll down. Just go to the Topic Index, put your cursor over the blue highlighted subject heading that you wish to review, hold down the control and shift buttons at the same time, and you will be taken to that area of the Update.

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### **SUMMER SAFETY**

Keeping the children in your care safe is important all year long, however, the following risks are increased during the summer months, and require special attention:

#### **Water Safety**

Drowning is a major cause of death among children under five years of age in California. It can happen quickly and silently in as little as two inches of water. Extra supervision is important when children play near water - not just around pools and hot tubs, but also near buckets, wading pools, and toilets.

Licensing regulations require that providers use covers or fences to make pools and other bodies of water inaccessible to children. Licensing policy requires that fencing must be in place to make sure the pool or body of water is not accessible. Any fence used to prevent access to a swimming pool must be inspected and approved by licensing staff before its use. Approved mesh fences that meet licensing standards for swimming pool fencing may be used provided that the licensee keeps the fence in place whenever licensed care is provided, and so long as the mesh fence makes the

swimming pool inaccessible to children as determined by licensing staff. Please review the [enclosed policy memo](#) dated May 11, 2001 for additional information about using mesh fences.

We cannot stress enough the importance of close supervision of children around bodies of water, use of appropriate flotation devices, and preventing access to bodies of water through appropriate fencing and covers for pools and appropriate locks on doors and windows. Please review the related [Title 22 licensing requirements](#): Child Care Centers (CCCs), Sections 101238, Buildings and Grounds; and 101238.5, Wading Pools. For Family Child Care Homes (FCCHs), please review Section 102417.

The California Department of Health Services (CDHS) web site provides information on pool and spa safety pursuant to the Swimming Pool Safety Act of 2006 (California Health and Safety Code § 115920-115929): "[Drowning Prevention: Toddler Pool and Spa Safety](#)". Please take the time to review this web site. It contains a Safety Guide for downloading as an educational brochure.



### **Sun and Skin**

More than half of all new cancers are skin cancers. Healthy skin care begins at childhood. We encourage licensees to use sunscreen on children! Title 22 licensing regulations, Section 101226(e) (4), Health-Related Services, requires CCCs to obtain written approval or instructions from parents prior to administering non-prescription medication to children in care. Sunscreen is considered a non-prescription medication. The approval or instructions must be maintained in the child's file. It is recommended that the same precautions be followed for FCCHs.

Providing adequate shaded rest areas in outdoor play space is also an important precaution to decrease summertime risks to children. Shade may be provided by trees, awnings, or tables with umbrellas.

Please be mindful of these increased summertime risks to children, and take the precautions necessary and provide the supervision required to keep our children safe and healthy.

Please take a moment to review important [summer safety tips prepared by the California Department of Health Services](#). This website includes information regarding skin protection tips, guidelines for outdoor play, and a variety of useful resources.



## **Children in Vehicles**

Licensees are responsible for providing supervision to children in facilities at all times. This responsibility includes never leaving children unattended in motor vehicles. On a warm, sunny day, even at temperatures as mild as 60 degrees Fahrenheit, a closed vehicle can heat up to dangerous levels within minutes, and children left in this environment can face serious injury or even death. Because heat affects children more quickly and severely than adults, they are especially vulnerable.

To address these dangers, the Unattended Child in Motor Vehicle Safety Act (also known as "Kaitlyn's Law") was incorporated into the California Vehicle Code (Division 6.7), and became effective on January 1, 2002. This law makes it an infraction, punishable by a fine of \$100, for a parent, guardian or other person responsible for a child six years of age or younger to leave that child in a motor vehicle without supervision. Title 22 Regulations, Section 101225(e) and Section 102417(K) (1) prohibit children from being left in parked cars in licensed CCCs and FCCHs.

## **Heat-Related Illnesses**

With information provided by the CDHS, the CDSS has prepared: "[Tips for Licensees to Prevent Heat-Related Illnesses](#)". Please click on this blue link to review important information regarding what to do during a heat wave, and warning signs and actions to take for heat stroke and heat exhaustion. For additional information, including access to information in other languages, please see the CDHS web site at [www.dhs.ca.gov](http://www.dhs.ca.gov).

## **Fight the Bite!**

Mosquitoes—always a nuisance—have, until recently, seldom posed a health threat. That changed with the arrival of the West Nile virus in California, a disease spread by mosquito bites. Take steps at your FCCH or CCC to make outdoor activities safer and more enjoyable—use the "[Fight the Bite](#)" handouts to prevent mosquitoes from breeding and protect children and staff. In cooperation with the CDHS and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, these handouts have been developed by the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR). If you would like more information about the DPR, School Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program, please visit their web site at [www.schoolipm.info](http://www.schoolipm.info). There is also a California West Nile Virus home page at <http://www.westnile.ca.gov/> for more information and the latest news.

## **Got Birds?**

Spring has sprung and with it a lot of nesting birds. Various species of birds can cause problems in schools—they soil our sidewalks, carry an ever-increasing number of diseases, and create an overload of work for maintenance staff throughout the nesting season. Most urban birds plaguing schools are introduced species that steal habitat and resources from our native birds.

If you have bird problems, then you know they are one of the toughest pests with which to deal. To fix the problem, you or your pest management professional can do several things, but ultimately it requires participation by the whole school community.

The three must haves for any pest are: FOOD, WATER AND SHELTER. Reduce the availability of these three things to discourage birds that are pests.

**FOOD:** Birds will scavenge on most any outdoor edible debris left after breaks and lunch periods; consequently, outdoor lunch areas have worst bird problems, which poses an increased health risk. Well-placed trash receptacles with prompt disposal, along with educating students and staff, will significantly reduce this problem.

**WATER:** Birds will remember locations where water has collected in puddles created by sagging rooftops, outdoor toys, tarps and other depressions, as well as clogged rain gutters, storm drains, and drinking fountains. Empty accumulated water and keep drains flowing freely.

**SHELTER:** Some urban environments offer excellent nesting and roosting sites. Common among these are light fixtures, building ledges, overhead beams, and overhangs of almost any type. Many of these can be designed out or re-designed. [From: Got Birds? Pest Press 3 (April 2006), Arizona Cooperative Extension, IPM in Schools Program.]

For suggestions about habitat modification and bird management, see: Got Birds? In the Pest Press, April 2006, from Arizona's IPM in Schools Program, <http://ag.arizona.edu/urbanipm/schoolipm/newsletters/2006/april.pdf> and the section on Pigeons in our School IPM Model Program Guidebook: [http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/cfdocs/apps/schoolipm/managing\\_pests/guidebook.cfm](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/cfdocs/apps/schoolipm/managing_pests/guidebook.cfm)

For questions about school IPM, visit DPR's School IPM web site at [www.schoolipm.info](http://www.schoolipm.info) or contact Madeline Bratesani at [mbrattesani@cdpr.ca.gov](mailto:mbrattesani@cdpr.ca.gov).

## **IMMUNIZATIONS FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS**

Child care providers do a fantastic job at checking that the kids they care for are up-to-date on required immunizations. But immunizations are not just for kids—child care providers also need protection from serious vaccine-preventable diseases such as flu and whooping cough. The flyer, "[If you Take Care of Children...Protect Against Flu and Whooping Cough](#)", was developed by the CDHS, Immunization Branch to inform child

care providers about flu and whooping cough immunizations. Vaccines are the best way to protect yourself and the children you care for from these serious infections.

## **DISASTER PLANNING**

The CDHS Services, [Administration for Children and Families](#), has a very useful web site to assist child care providers and parents by providing resources for disasters and emergencies. This site brings together information and key resources for emergency preparedness, disaster response and recovery that relate specifically to child care. Links to general emergency preparedness resources will provide disaster specific information in the event of an emergency.

## **CHILDHOOD ASTHMA INITIATIVE**

The [Childhood Asthma Initiative](#) is a project of the CDHS. The goal of the Childhood Asthma Initiative is to improve the quality of life for children with asthma, ages zero to five years. The Childhood Asthma Initiative and CCLD work in partnership to increase awareness about asthma and its management and control in child care settings.

Asthma is the most common chronic disease of childhood - in a classroom of 30 children, at least two are likely to have asthma. With over one million California children spending some of the day in a licensed child care facility, child care providers play a significant role for children with asthma. While no one knows exactly why people develop asthma, it is well known that "triggers" in the environment can cause a person with asthma to have an asthma attack. Triggers for asthma include: tobacco smoke, dust, pollen, pets with fur or feathers, mold and mildew, strong smelling cleaners and paints, cockroaches and wild mice. Not everyone with asthma has the same triggers. To make child care facilities more asthma-friendly, child care providers can do the following:

- Ensure their facilities are 100% free of tobacco smoke
- Control dust mites by cleaning regularly (when children are not present) by damp dusting, vacuuming and washing stuffed animals, pillows and linens in hot water
- Ensure there is no mold and mildew
- Have an effective pest control program (this does not mean using more pesticides)
- Find a new home for furry or feathered pets

A checklist to assess how your child care facility is doing in providing care for children with asthma is located on the Internet at

[http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/public/lung/asthma/chc\\_chk.htm](http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/public/lung/asthma/chc_chk.htm). The checklist is available in English and Spanish.

The [California Childcare Health Program's Healthline](#) has developed an Asthma Action Plan, which is used to list a child's triggers, gives instructions on administering medication to keep a child's asthma under control, and direction on what to do when an asthma attack occurs. The plan not only helps children with asthma, it also helps providers gain confidence in caring for children with asthma. The Asthma Action Plan, designed specifically for children zero to five years old, should be completed by the child's healthcare provider. The plan is printed in triplicate, which allows the family, child care provider and healthcare provider to each have a copy. Copies of the Child Asthma Plan are available in English, Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese and can be ordered by calling the Healthline at 1(800) 333-3212.

## **LEGISLATION RECAP**

In the December 2006 Child Care Update, we provided information regarding Chaptered Legislation for 2006. However, we have been receiving a significant number of inquiries with regard to the new parent notification requirements (AB 633). To ensure that everyone received the parent notification information and is clear with regard to implementation requirements, please click on [Parent Notification Requirements](#).

## **LICENSED CHILD CARE STATISTICS**

Enclosed are the most recent [statistics on licensed child care facilities and capacities](#). Further breakouts by category and location are available.

## **SUMMARY**

If you have questions about items included in this Update, or suggestions for future topics, please contact Gloria Merk, Program Administrator, Child Care Program Office, at (916) 229-4500. You may also visit our internet website at [www.cclcd.ca.gov](http://www.cclcd.ca.gov) to obtain copies of licensing Updates, office locations, provider letters, regulations, forms, the Licensing Evaluator Manual, or to learn more about licensing programs and services.

Sincerely,

*(original signed by J. Frederick)*  
JO FREDERICK  
Deputy Director  
Community Care Licensing Division

Enclosures